



A DAY OF HEROES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

You are invited to attend a special presentation featuring guest speakers Steve Ritchie, Nick Popaditch and Michael Durant

Gibson Amphitheater
100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608
Entrance fee of \$20 per person

LEADERSHIP / COURAGE / COMBAT SURVIVAL



Brig. Gen. Steve Ritchie (Ret.)
Dogfights: Hell over Hanoi



MGySGT. Nick Popaditch (Ret.)
Book: Once A Marine



CW4 Michael Durant (Ret.)
Black Hawk Down

Speaker Bios and Registration at
www.lahidtatraining.org





Brigadier General Richard Stephen "Steve" Ritchie (Retired), born in Reidsville, North Carolina, was an officer in the United States Air Force and Colorado Air National Guard, and also a general officer in the Air Force Reserve. Ritchie is a recipient of the Air Force Cross, the second highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Air Force.

Ritchie completed 339 combat missions totaling over 800 flying hours. He returned from his second combat tour in Vietnam as one of the most highly decorated Air Force pilots and is among the five American aces during the Vietnam War. Ritchie also received the 1972 Mackay Trophy and the 1972 Jabara Award for airmanship, including the Armed Forces Award for outstanding contributions toward the national security of the United States. Ritchie retired from the Air Force in 1999.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ziu2b16CXNE>



Master Gunnery Sergeant Nick Popaditch (Retired), a native of East Chicago, Indiana, Nick Popaditch enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 1986. In 2004, while commanding a tank, Popaditch was wounded from an RPG hit to the commander's hatch of his tank where he was standing. Popaditch's tank, named the 'Bone Crusher' and crew successfully withdrew and returned to a staging area for medical treatment. Popaditch was medically retired from the United States Marine Corp at the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant in 2005.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/multimedia/atwar/index.html>



CW4 Michael 'Mike' J. Durant (Retired), is the American pilot who was held prisoner after a U.S. raid in Mogadishu, Somalia in October 1993. Durant served in the United States Army in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, known as the Night Stalkers, as a Chief Warrant Officer 3. Durant retired from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer 4, Blackhawk helicopter Master Aviator.

Durant participated in numerous combat operations and is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with Valor Device, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, three Air Medals, POW Medal, and numerous others.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.mikedurant.com/>